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UNBEATEN CHAMPION SONGBIRD HEADS 112 3-YEAR-OLD FILLIES NOMINATED TO 142ND LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS

Unbeaten Cathryn Sophia, Stakes Winners Rachel's Valentina Carina Mia Also Nominated

LOUISVILLE, KY. (Tuesday, March 1, 2016) – Fox Hill Farm Inc.'s unbeaten **Songbird**, the champion 2-year-old filly of 2015 and winner of the 14 Hands Winery Breeders' Cup Juvenile (Grade I) at Keeneland, tops an accomplished and exciting roster of 112 3-year-old fillies made eligible during the early nomination phase to compete in the 142nd running of the \$1 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) at Churchill Downs Racetrack on Friday, May 6, the eve of the \$2 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (GI).

Other rising stars nominated to compete in the 2016 Oaks include **Cash Is King LLC's** unbeaten **Cathryn Sophia**, winner of the recent Forward Gal (GII) at Gulfstream Park; **Stonestreet Stable LLC's** **Rachel's Valentina**, winner of Saratoga's Spinaway (GI) and runner-up to Songbird in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies; **Three Chimneys Farm LLC's** **Carina Mia**, winner of Churchill Downs' Golden Rod (GII); **Reddam Racing LLC's** **Gomo**, winner of the Darley Alcibiades (GI) at Keeneland; **Alpha Delta Stable's** Demoiselle (GII) winner and Forward Gal runner-up **Lewis Bay**; and **Rosemont Farm LLC's** **Venus Valentine**, winner of the recent Rachel Alexandra (GII) at Fair Grounds.

The nominated fillies are bidding to succeed **Brereton C. Jones' Lovely Maria**, who earned the traditional mantle of Stargazer Lilies following her 2015 Kentucky Oaks victory witnessed by a record Oaks Day crowd of 123,763. Lovely Maria provided her owner and trainer **Larry Jones** with their third Oaks triumphs, respectively, and earned a first win in the race for veteran jockey **Kerwin "Boo Boo" Clark**.

The deadline for early phase nominations to the 2016 Kentucky Oaks, America's top race for 3-year-old fillies was Feb. 20, and payment of a \$200 was required to make each nominated filly eligible for the race. Total early nominations were down from 2015, when 154 3-year-old fillies were made eligible during the early phase and two late nominations pushed the overall total to 156. But along with presence of an undefeated champion in Songbird, the roster of 2016 Kentucky Oaks nominees features the names of the most accomplished and promising members of the current 3-year-old filly crop.

A late nomination phase for the Kentucky Oaks is now underway – requiring payment of a \$1,500 fee for each late nominee – and runs through Wednesday, April 13. With the close of the late nomination window, owners will have one more opportunity to make their fillies Oaks-eligible through a supplemental nomination process. Payment of a supplemental fee of \$30,000 will be required at the Kentucky Oaks' time of entry on Tuesday, May 3 to make a filly eligible to be entered and compete.

The Oaks field is limited to 14 starters and up to four fillies can be designated as "also-eligible" to start. Eligibility to compete in the Oaks is determined by points amassed during the "Road to the Kentucky Oaks" points series. Should one of more fillies scratch from the Kentucky Oaks before 9 a.m. ET on the day of the race, a filly or

fillies from the “also-eligible” list that possess the highest respective point totals would be allowed to take the open spot, or spots, in the Kentucky Oaks starting gate.

The 1 1/8-mile Kentucky Oaks is run each year on the eve of the Kentucky Derby and, like its partner race, has been run annually with interruption since the 1875 race meet at the historic track first known as the Louisville Jockey Club. The Oaks has grown to be the centerpiece of spectacular day that celebrates fashion, food, celebrity and fun that features a focus on women’s health issues and outreach. Churchill Downs and national charity partner **Bright Pink®** join forces on Oaks Day to promote breast cancer and ovarian health outreach. Along with its renewal of its main event, Kentucky Oaks Day 2016 also will feature the eighth annual renewal of the emotional **Survivors Parade Presented by Kroger** – an on-track, pre-race parade featuring 142 cancer survivors – along with the popular tradition of the “**Pink Out,**” in which all Oaks Day attendees are encouraged to incorporate the color pink into their Oaks Day attire.

The 142nd running of the Longines Kentucky Oaks will be telecast live on NBCSN.

Eclipse Award 2-year-old filly champion Songbird, who is trained by Thoroughbred racing Hall of Famer and three-time Kentucky Oaks winner **Jerry Hollendorfer**, has a perfect record in five career races and launched her 3-year-old campaign with an impressive 6 1/2-length victory in the \$300,000 Las Virgenes (GII) at Santa Anita. That triumph under Hall of Fame jockey **Mike Smith** was Songbird’s fourth graded stakes victory – a total that includes other Grade I wins in Santa Anita’s Chandelier and the Del Mar Debutante – and boosted the career earnings by the daughter of Medaglia d’Oro to \$1,682,000.

Hollendorfer-trained fillies who have earned victories in the Kentucky Oaks include **Light Lite** (1991), **Pike Place Dancer** (1996) and **Blind Luck** (2010). The California-based Hollendorfer was a co-owner of both Pike Place Dancer and Blind Luck. Smith won the 2013 Kentucky Oaks aboard **Princess of Sylmar** and Fox Hill Farm owner **Rick Porter** is bidding for his first victory in the Kentucky Oaks.

Fillies campaigned by Porter’s Fox Hill Farm have enjoyed considerable success in major races. Along with his current champion, female stars campaigned by Porter include 2011 Horse of the Year **Havre de Grace** and 2008 Kentucky Derby runner-up **Eight Belles**.

Other rising stars nominated to the 142nd Kentucky Oaks include **Magdalena Racing’s** Pocahontas (GII) winner and Alcibiades runner-up **Dothraki Queen**; **Agave Racing Stable’s** **Street Fancy**, winner of the Starlet (GI) at Los Alamitos; **Mike Rutherford’s** **Stageplay**, runner-up in the Golden Rod and winner of the Silverbulletday at Fair Grounds; **Carl M. Moore Management’s** Delta Jackpot (GIII) winner **Jet Black Magic**; the Hollendorfer-trained **Kiss N Scat**, winner of the California Oaks at Golden Gate Fields; **Reddam Racing’s** Las Virgenes and Chandelier runner-up **Land Over Sea**; **Cottonwood Stable’s** **Midnight On Oconee**, runner-up in the Rachel Alexandra and Silverbulletday; **L N J Foxwoods’** **Nickname**, winner of the Frizette (GI); **Glen Bromagen’s** Suncoast winner **Weep No More**; **Stephen Fidel’s** Debutante winner **Cosmic Evolution**; **Winchell Thoroughbreds’** recent allowance winner **Adore**; and **Phipps Stable’s** unbeaten **Browse**.

Seven-time Eclipse Award winner and two-time Kentucky Oaks winner **Todd Pletcher** led all trainers by nominating 23 fillies to the race. Two-time Oaks winner **Steve Asmussen** nominated eight fillies and two-time Oaks winner and reigning Eclipse Award-winner **Bob Baffert** made five horses eligible for the race.

Stonestreet Stable LLC and **Mathis Stable LLC** tied as top owner with four Oaks nominees, owned either alone or in partnership. **Godolphin Racing LLC** and **LNJ Foxwoods** each nominated a trio of fillies to the race.

Hronis Racing’s **Stellar Wind**, fourth to Lovely Maria in the 2015 Kentucky Oaks, earned the Eclipse Award for the year’s outstanding 3-year-old filly and became the third consecutive Oaks participant to secure that honor. The **John Sadler**-trained daughter of Curlin joined 2014 Oaks winner **Untapable** and **Beholder**, a three-time champion and runner-up to **Princess of Sylmar** in the 2013 Oaks, in that string of championships.

The Oaks had earlier produced a string of four consecutive champions in Blind Luck (2010), **Rachel Alexandra** (2009), **Proud Spell** (2008) and **Rags to Riches** (2007), and Rachel Alexandra and Rags to Riches went on to defeat males in Triple Crown races in their next starts. The former held off Kentucky Derby winner **Mine That Bird** in the Preakness (GI). Rachel Alexandra also collected Grade I wins over males in Monmouth Park's Haskell Invitational and Woodward at Saratoga on her way to the Eclipse Awards for **Horse of the Year** and champion 3-year-old filly. Rags to Riches edged eventual two-time Horse of the Year **Curlin** in a dramatic 2007 renewal of the Belmont Stakes (GI) in a championship year that also included Grade I wins in the Las Virgenes and Santa Anita Oaks.

Other Kentucky Oaks winners who were named champions of the in their age and gender division include **Ashado** (2004), **Bird Town** (2003), **Farda Amiga** (2002), **Silverbulletday** (1999), Open Mind (1989), **Tiffany Lass** (1986), **Davona Dale** (1979) and **Susan's Girl** (1972). Kentucky Oaks participants who went on to secure 3-year-old championship honors include **Wait a While** (3rd in in the Kentucky Oaks in 2006), **Banshee Breeze** (runner-up in 1998), **Go for Wand** (runner-up in 1990) and **Wayward Lass** (3rd in 1981).

Churchill Downs, the world's most legendary racetrack, has conducted Thoroughbred racing and presented America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ: CHDN) offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will conduct the 142st running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on May 7, 2016. The track's 2016 Spring Meet is scheduled for April 30-July 2. Churchill Downs has hosted the Breeders' Cup World Championships eight times. Information is available at www.ChurchillDowns.com.

2016 Longines Kentucky Oaks Early Nominations

Adornment	Forever Darling	Northwest Tale
Afleet Lady	Fuhriously Kissed	Not Now Carolyn
Allerton	Gamble's Ghost	Off the Tracks
Alotta Skirt	Girl Talk	Pacific Heat
Alto Belle	Gomo	Paola Queen
Anna House	Great Soul	Peace Time
Awesome Dame	Harmonize	Polar River
Bali Strait	Heart Rush	Positively Royal
Banree	High Pitch	Princess Princess
Bellamentary	I Like to Whim	Privy Council
Better Not Blink	Ide Biduadeau	Put Da Blame On Me
Browse	Impasse	Queen Emma
Carina Mia	Inheritance	Rachel's Valentina
Casino Call	Instant Drama	Royal Obsession
Castiel's Angel	Island Saint	Sandora
Castor	Jade Princess	Sense of Beauty
Cathryn Sophia	Jet Black Magic	Sensible Match
Cced	Kinsley Kisses	Smart Shopping
Charlotte Marie	Kiss N Scat	Songbird
Clipthecouponannie	Land Over Sea	Sophia's Song
Coldgreydawn	Leavingiswinning	Stageplay
Cosmic Evolution	Lemon Drop Belle	Street Fancy
Cosmic Girl	Lewis Bay	Street Surrender
Cross Country	Lira	Sugar Cone
Daddy's Great Bay	Lost Raven	Surfside Tiara
Daring Bride	Lough Ness	Sutton's Smile
Dearest	Lucky Folie	Swift Lady
Dorodansa	Ma Can Do It	Tap to It
Dothraki Queen	Marquee Miss	Taxable
Dream Dance	Merirosvo	Terra Promessa
Dreams to Reality	Midnight On Oconee	Thrilled
Durango	Mine as Well	Treasuring
Emmy	Mines and Magic	Truly Striking
Faithfully	Miss Meteor	Venus Valentine
Family Tree	Missalancy	Weep No More
Firsthand Report	Mo d'Amour	Where's the D
Flora Dora	Nickname	Wonderment